

Student enrollment, test scores climb

New freshmen who began classes at Gallaudet last week can be proud to be part of several "firsts":

The freshman Class of 1991 is the first to be admitted to Gallaudet University.

The new freshman class is the largest in Gallaudet's history.

More freshmen than ever before—twice as many as last year—were invited to apply for the honors program.

And last, the academic quality of entering students, based on scores on the Stanford Achievement Test, has continued to increase over the previous few years.

"The overall profiles for both freshmen and preparatory students are better than they were last year," said Myra Per-Lee, executive director of the Office of Enrollment Management Services.

An estimated 567 new undergraduate students are attending Gallaudet this semester, compared with about 525 students last year. This number includes about 317 new freshmen, 220 preparatory students at the Northwest Campus, 11 associate of arts students in interpreter training and 19 full-time special undergraduate students. Approximately 136 of these students are transfers from other colleges.

In addition, about 106 new graduate students have registered at Gallaudet.

Reading levels of incoming students

continue to climb. Based on preliminary data, new freshman SAT mean scores are at about a 10.1 grade level equivalent, compared with a mean of 9.5 last year. This grade level equivalent is for hearing students; new Gallaudet freshmen rank in the 97th percentile of hearing impaired 18-year-olds who took the test.

"There has been a steady improvement in the reading levels of our freshmen," Per-Lee noted. Grade level equivalents for freshmen were 7.5 in 1984, 8.5 in 1985, 9.5 in 1986 and 10.1 in 1987.

Math skills of incoming freshmen have also improved for both preps and freshmen, according to three SAT subtests, said Per-Lee.

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Gallaudet's campus is full of activity as fall semester classes get under way.

Trip to China establishes new relationships

Gallaudet may establish new relationships with several schools for deaf students in the People's Republic of China as a result of Dr. Philip Schmitt's visit to that country this summer.

Schmitt, a professor in the Department of Education, was one of the representatives from 17 institutions throughout the United States who spent almost six weeks in China learning about the culture, exchanging ideas and establishing agreements with schools in several Chinese provinces.

The educators are members of the USA/China Teacher Education Consortium, created in the summer of 1986 to improve teacher education in China after several provinces passed laws extending compulsory education from the sixth to the ninth grades. The consortium now has 26 member institutions from the United States and 15 from China.

The July 6-Aug. 13 visit included visits to about a dozen Chinese col-

leges and universities and about 15 other schools ranging from kindergarten to high school. Participants attended formal banquets, heard lectures given by Chinese professors, gave lectures for school principals and met with institution administrators and faculty.

Gallaudet is the only special education institution involved in the consortium. Although the focus of the group is regular education, Liaoning Province, a rural and industrial area in northeast China with a population of 37 million, requested assistance from specialists in deaf education.

"China is beginning to give special attention to students with disabilities," said Schmitt. "They are really in the early stages of special education."

Chinese emphasis related to disabilities seems to be in the areas of deafness, blindness and mental retardation, according to Schmitt.

Most deaf students attend special schools, and Gallaudet may establish a

"sister school" relationship with one of them—the Yankou Normal School in Liaoning province. Schmitt met with the heads of the teacher training program at the school, which is comparable to a high school-level program, he said. Most elementary teachers in China are required to have only a high school education, and there are few teacher training programs in education of the deaf.

Because many of the schools were closed for the summer, Schmitt was able to visit only one school for deaf students, in the city of Shenyang in Liaoning Province. "Although it was the first day of summer vacation, they brought back all the teachers and children just for me," he said.

Students at the school used sign language, said Schmitt, and it was his impression that sign language was widely used throughout the country. Equipment was limited and the physical facilities were poor by our standards, "but the children were very enthusiastic."

Schmitt also had contact with the principal of a new school for deaf students now under construction in Qinghai province. The school plans to open next year with 100 students. "We will look into the possibility of getting an exchange going," he said.

A meeting between Schmitt and the deputy mayor of a city in Gansu province may also lead to a relationship between Gallaudet and a school for the deaf there.

The Chinese are very interested in exchanges of people and information, according to Schmitt, and he hopes his contacts will open up more possibilities for future work with other deaf schools.

The consortium is now working with the Chinese provinces of Liaoning, Xinjiang and Qinghai. Gansu province may also be added to the group.

Six GU wrestlers head for Moscow

Six Gallaudet wrestlers will learn firsthand about international relations when they take to the mats in Moscow Sept. 6-13 for the first International Deaf Wrestling Tournament in six years.

The athletes are members of a 14-man delegation (including coaches) that makes up the U.S.A. Deaf Wrestling Team. Accompanied by coaches Marty Willigan of Gallaudet and Jim Schartner of the Maryland School for the Deaf, they will compete against wrestlers from seven other countries, including Iran.

Wrestlers participating from Gallaudet are Jeff White, Barry Barron, Chris Von Garrel, Eric Woods, Charlie Hammack and Todd Silvestri, and trainer Mark Stephens.

The tournament came about largely through the efforts of Donald Ammons, assistant professor of Spanish, who met with Soviet delegates at the International Sports for Deaf Congress in Oslo, Norway, last February.

The American Athletic Association of the Deaf development committee is paying for airfare for the team and coaches. All hotel, food and airport transfer expenses are being paid by the Russian Federation of Deaf Sports.



Phil Schmitt, center, talks with Mr. Su Cai, principal of Liaoning Educational Institute and a major host of the consortium, with the assistance of an interpreter.

French Minitels come to campus

Minitels—part of a videotext system used by millions of people in France to communicate, receive news, do business and gain access to information—have made their way to Gallaudet.

The University is part of a pilot test program of the Minitel in the United States being conducted by CTL Communications in New York.

Gallaudet now has six Minitel units on loan from CTL, with more on the way. The loans were arranged by Mark Weinberg, assistant professor with the Foreign Languages Department.

Since the Minitel device is "something of a cross between a computer terminal and a TDD," according to Weinberg, "I thought it might have possible applications here on campus, both for the students in our French program and for the deaf population at large."

Minitels were originally requested by the Foreign Language Department for two reasons, said Weinberg. French students here, as an outgrowth of their classes taught on the English Natural Form Instruction computer network, can communicate with people in France. Faculty can also use the device to keep abreast of current events in France and communicate with the French deaf community, many of whom use Minitel.

But Weinberg sees Minitel as having wider implications for the deaf community if the system gains popularity in the United States. In France, he said, almost every subscriber to the telephone network also has a Minitel, most provided free by the telephone company. Because communication on Minitel depends exclusively on the written word, it is equally accessible to deaf and hearing people.

For further information about Minitel, contact Weinberg at x5562.

Interpreters available

Students working with the associate of arts degree program in interpreting are now available to interpret for people on campus free of charge.

People interested in using the services of these practicum students can contact Jeffrey Davis, practicum coordinator in the Department of Linguistics and Interpreting, at x5080 or x5199.

on the GREEN

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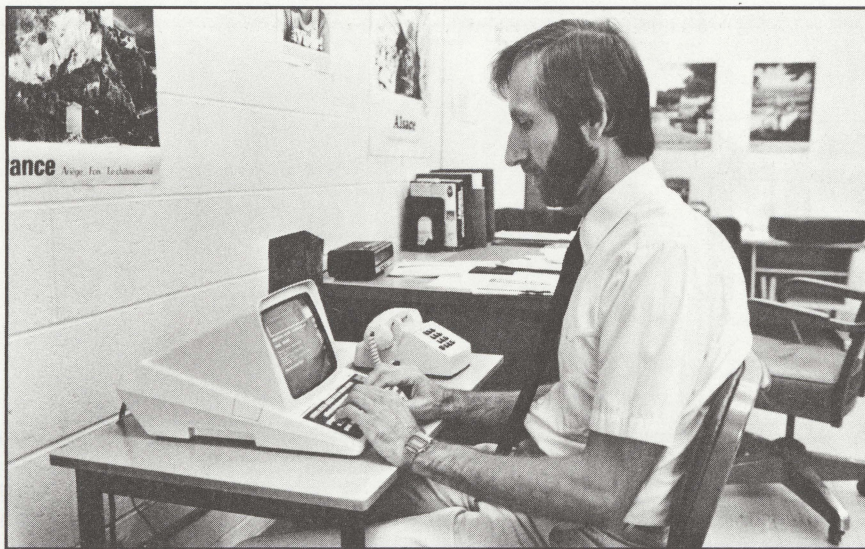
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Assistant Professor Mark Weinberg demonstrates how to use the Minitel.

Announcements

The Simultaneous Method Evaluation Panel needs two graduate faculty members and one undergraduate faculty member to serve on the panel. Nominations should be sent to Committee D by Sept. 11. Committee D members include B. Crouch, M. Noretsky, B. White, J. Shickel and J. Albertine.

Programs in Adult and Community Education (PACE) announces the following events. Amish Market Day, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will include a free presentation about the Amish lifestyle at 1 p.m. The Sugarloaf Craft Festival will occur Sept. 18-20 in Manassas, Va. Registration is required

for both events. "Can You Canoe?" will be held Sept. 13 from noon to 5 p.m. The fee will be \$18.81 per person. For more information, call PACE at x5044.

"Vocational Education of the Deaf—Taking on Tomorrow" will be presented by Dr. Klaus Schulte on Sept. 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Fowler Hall, Room 101A. Dr. Schulte is a professor at a teacher training university in Heidelberg, West Germany. He is touring Canada and the U.S. lecturing and collecting research results on vocational post-secondary education of deaf students.

"Planning Your Will," sponsored by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, will be interpreted on Sept. 21 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the New Carrollton Branch Library, 7414 Riverdale Road. Participants must register at the library's information desk by Sept. 16.



About 220 new preparatory students are attending classes at the Northwest Campus.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

POSTAL CLERK: Post Office

MEDIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATE: Library

Enrollment increases

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Gallaudet also requires a writing test for potential freshmen, the Gallaudet English Language Sample. Scores on the test increased this year, said Per-Lee.

She noted that according to a national study, it is not uncommon to find 30-40 percent of entering freshmen nationwide reading below a seventh grade level.

The study, "College Responses to Low-Achieving Students" indicated that many colleges and universities, both "select" and standard, have remedial classes. For example, the University of California in 1975 required remedial writing for about 50 percent of its entering students, who were drawn from the top 12 percent of their high school classes. This is the same percentage of entering students in remedial writing courses as at the Bronx Community College, which admitted three-fourths of its students from the lower half of New York City high schools.

This year 44 percent of Gallaudet's preparatory students and freshmen last attended a mainstream program, a big gain from last year's 35 percent. "That was one of the targets of the master plan, for us to see a higher percentage of mainstream enrollment," said Per-Lee.

Incoming freshmen, on the average, lost their hearing at age 1.5 years, compared with 1.2 years last year. But their degree of hearing loss is a bit more severe than last year's group—90.9 dB compared with 89.9 last year, according to enrollment statistics.

Figures also showed that 27 percent of the freshman class and 24 percent of the prep class have deaf family members.

Classified Ads

WANTED: Nonsmoking cat lover to rent finished basement w/pvt. bath and kitchen privileges in Laurel, Md., \$300 plus half utils, furn. or unfurn. Call Gina, 490-8397 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Off-white Scandinavian-style sofa, loveseat, chair, \$500; 2 wicker end tables and 2 "beanpot" lamps, \$100; double bed frame, mattress, dresser, \$400. Call Gina, 490-8397 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Roll top desk, like new, asking \$150. Call Linda, x5154 (V/TDD) days or 336-5040 (V) after 6 p.m.

RIDE NEEDED: From Seabrook, Md., to Gallaudet starting Sept. 8; must be on campus by 6 a.m., will pay for gas. Call David from 7-10 p.m. weekdays or any time weekends, 794-4341 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Couch, loveseat, chair, 2 end tables and coffee table, brown/tan, good cond., \$230/BO. Call 459-8064 (V) after 6:30 p.m.

FOR RENT/LEASE: Beautiful 2-BR condo on Penn. Ave., 10 miles from Gallaudet, top floor, w/w carpet, W/D, pool, tennis, quiet, nice community. Call John, 420-4713 (V/TDD) anytime.

FOR SALE: Daisy-wheel printer, 1 1/2 yrs. old, almost new, \$250/BO. Call Esther King, x5525.

WANTED: Nonsmoking professional female to share 2-BR apt. in Riverdale, Md., must be mature, responsible, independent and like cats, \$247.50/mo. plus elec. Call Sharon, 459-6799 (TDD) eves.

FOR SALE: Wooden barrel table w/ veneer top and 4 matching chairs w/black vinyl. Call Maryte, x5005.

FOR SALE: '78 Chevy Malibu, no rust, new tires, very good cond., \$1,000. Call Des Power, x5400.

WANTED: Nonsmoker to share new 3-BR house, 20 mins. to Gallaudet. \$300/mo. inc. util. Wonderful amenities. Call x3115; 249-2675 (V) or 577-6809 (TDD).